

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 (Cancelled)

Claims 6 – 10 (New)

Amendment to the Claims:

Please delete Claims 1 – 5 and insert the following new Claims 6 – 10.

6. ^(new) A valve assembly comprising a reed, a port which is opened and closed by the reed, and damper means for mechanically damping motion of the reed, the damper means comprising a tube which is in communication with the port on a side of the port remote from the reed, and the tube being of such a size that, in use of the valve assembly, the tube contains a column of fluid which is sufficient to provide substantial mechanical damping of the motion of the reed.

37
7. ^(new) A valve assembly according to claims 6 in which the tube is such that it extends vertically above the port.

8. ^(new) A valve assembly according to claim 6 in which the port is in a valve plate, and in which the length of the tube is greater than the diameter of the port.

9. ^(new) A valve assembly according to claim 8 in which the length of the tube is at least twice the diameter of the port.

10. ^(new) A compressor or a pump when including a valve assembly according to claim 6.